

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present application is entitled to a priority date of December 4, 2000. This is established by the verified translation of our Japanese priority application No. 2000-368539, filed that day.


By contrast, the TAGO et al. references, whether domestic or Japanese, have a reference date subsequent to our priority date.

Hence, neither can be used against the present application as a reference.

There being no viable rejection for the claims, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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